

THOTH - TEHUTI, HERMES I, ACADEMICIAN, BUREAUCRAT, KINGMAKER, REFUGEE



Abstract

Carrying the remnants of pre-flood knowledge into one of the world's first great civilizations makes perfect sense as to why Thoth (Tehuti) would be deified over time; to those struggling to rebuild after such a catastrophe, his knowledge would have seemed nothing short of divine. The idea of Thoth possessing advanced medicine, chemistry, and governance aligns well with his association with wisdom, magic, and preservation of knowledge. His connection to writing and record-keeping could also suggest he was documenting lost sciences or systems, ensuring they survived for future generations. The echoes of this flood-survivor archetype appear in myths worldwide, from Enki in Sumerian legends to Oannes of Babylonian tradition, all figures who brought wisdom to post-cataclysmic societies.

Keywords

Antikythera, Ancient Technology, Atlantis, Azores, Egypt, Egyptian Book of the Dead, Energy, Field of Offerings, Hermes, Horus, Isle of Flame, Ma-a-t, Osiris, Portugal, Pyramid Texts, Re, Raodha nilometre, Seshat, Seth, Solar-Barque, Solar Eye, Sun-Boat, Sun Eye, Sun God, Tehuti, Tefnut, Thoth,

Introduction

Hermes (Asclepius) Trismegistus refers to his grandfather's tomb—the very ancestor after whom he is named, Hermes of Hermoupolis, Magna. Asclepius states this connection:

"Is it not true that my grandfather, after whom I am named, resides in his eponymous town, whence he aids and cures all those who come to him from every land?"

When exploring the mythological and historical layers surrounding Thoth, it's crucial to recognize the fluidity of religious thought in ancient Egypt. The era from which temple texts and papyri emerged where distinct deities were often fused together. For instance, when the goddess Tefnut enters Egypt, she becomes Hathor and resembles the amiable side of this goddess's character (Junker p34, 42, 66, 84). Thoth persuaded Tefnut possibly through political pressure to leave Ethiopia and return to Egypt to stand beside Re. She goes on to become an honoured figure, Hathor. This blending of identities reflects a broader tendency in Egyptian history, where figures were reshaped over time.

In this context, it is reasonable to consider that gods and goddesses were, at their core, influential mortals figures of immense societal and political status who, through power and persuasion, embedded themselves into myth and legend. Their narratives were carefully curated to ensure historical endurance, reinforcing the divine legitimacy of rulers and religious institutions.

Thoth took pride in being one of the oldest "gods" or leaders of mankind. It's true he is not as famous as others of his reign, however he is accounted for as one of the ten members of the dynasty of gods who were believed to have reigned on earth before the beginning of regional leaderships throughout the world. (Holmberg p.84)

While modern perspectives often frame Egyptian spirituality as preoccupied with death, this may be an oversimplification, perhaps even a misinterpretation. The Western conception of the afterlife, often projected onto ancient Egyptian beliefs, is challenged by passages such as Spell 15:

"The southerners, northerners, westerners, and easterners tow you because of the praise for you."

Rather than arbitrarily assigning metaphysical significance to the term "West," it's important to recognize that directional terms in Egyptian texts may have been more literal than previously assumed as modern languages has much less characters than ancient.

Thoth's role in matters of death was not merely about guiding souls but also about preserving reputations. His guardianship extended to ensuring that the deceased, particularly those of the ruling class, were remembered correctly, shielding them from defamation by the living. Just as he defended Osiris and Re in cosmic struggles, his protection of rulers in death was an extension of his divine role in maintaining order and justice.

Thoth, the West and The Isle of Flame

In Spell 110 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, Thoth documents that he is the “god of peace”, and the Field of Offerings being depicted as series of islands. Thoth seems to reminisce of his lost past by delving into afterlife. The “Isle of Flame” or Island of Flame (Pyramid Texts 397) may be a reference to Atlantis and it’s volcanic archipelago in the Azores or from its destruction. Whatever the meaning, the loss of not just his country and countrymen, but history, played a significant role, in his survival journey for Man’s rebirth.



Figure 1. Spell 110 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead - The Field of Offerings

The Field of Offerings, which is depicted as four islands, represents Atlantis, the Azores archipelago, which is now the afterlife to Thoth. The description could explain the two dais on each sun boat (bottom island), however no mention is made of the dais on a small island within in a semi-ringed region, the throne of Poseidon within the rings of Atlantis, perhaps?

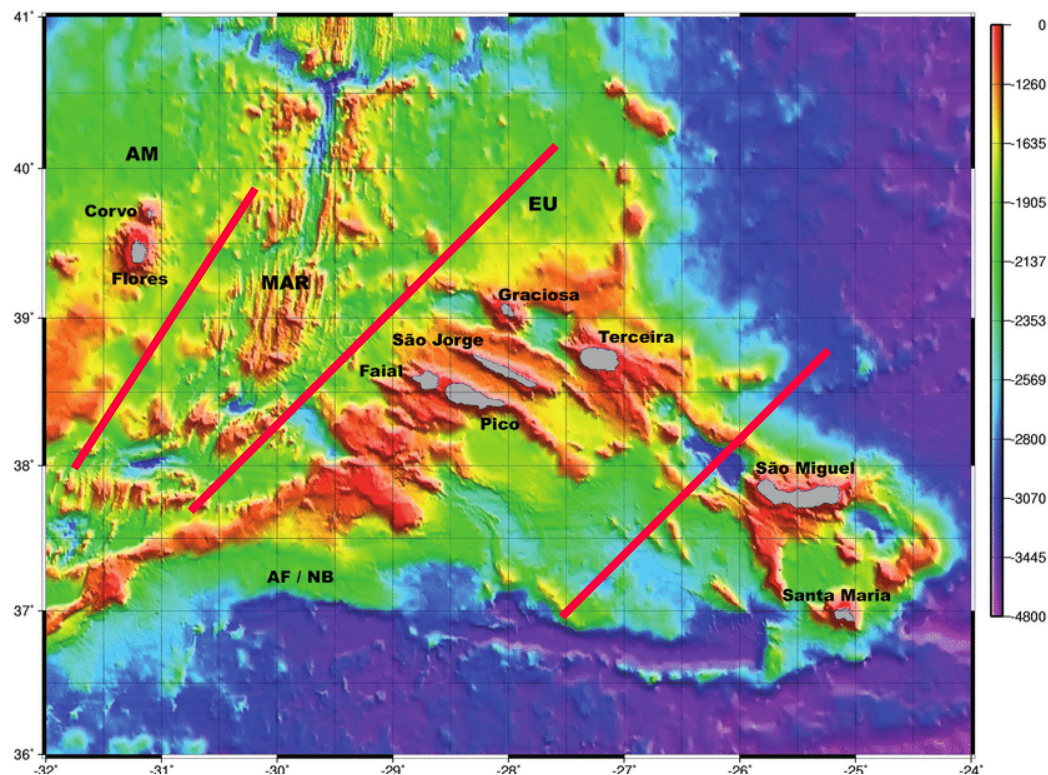


Figure 2. The Four Island/Regions, pre-flood, as depicted in Spell 110 with Sao Miguel and Santa Maria forming the ringed region. (França, Zilda & Forjaz, Victor-Hugo & Tilling, Robert & Kuentz, David & Widom, Elisabeth & Lago San José, Marceliano. (2009). VOLCANIC HISTORY OF PICO AND FAIAL ISLANDS, AZORES. AN OVERVIEW)

The interpretation of the Netherworld being The West, with rolling mountains hills and tall trees of the Azores Archipelago or Atlantis after the catastrophe, where Thoth's was supposedly from or his background at the very least. With his knowledge gained from his past is what helped him become the figure he became. Atlantis, the Isle of Flame, the Island of Fire, was now the Netherworld where the dead were banished to the deep waters. An excerpt from Spell 182 from the Egyptian Book of the Dead:

"Hail to you, Foremost the Westerners, who refashioned mankind..."

Here we can interpret that Thoth is speaking about an ancient civilization that conquered and passed their advancements to new regions of trade, the innovations like Pyramids across the world resembles our current civilization common cube and rectangular structures or vary sizes.

The Westerners refer to the memory of the people of Atlantis. And for Thoth and the knowledge he has spread, that's were all the great leaders of his era will also go upon their deaths. Osiris always being referred to as "The Great Bull of the West" by Thoth in Spell 182. It continues "...be firm as you were firm in the womb of your mother Nut (sky). She enfolds you, even you who issued from her; may your heart be firm in its place, may your heart be like it was before." Here is Thoth praying to his friend Osiris be at peace in the warm embrace of the sky and may his soul soar throughout Atlantis.



Figure 3. The hieroglyph for The West from Spell 8 of The Egyptian Book of the Dead

If the West in the Egyptian Book of the Dead isn't just about the afterlife but instead refers to a lost civilization like Atlantis, it completely reframes Thoth's role. Rather than simply guiding souls to the next world, he becomes a preserver of lost wisdom, ensuring that the remnants of a fallen civilization live on.

This theory suggests that Thoth himself was a refugee from Atlantis, carrying the knowledge of a destroyed world into Egypt, which then became the new hub for rebuilding civilization. This would explain why he was seen as god-like not because he was supernatural, but because he possessed knowledge far beyond what the survivors of the catastrophe could grasp.

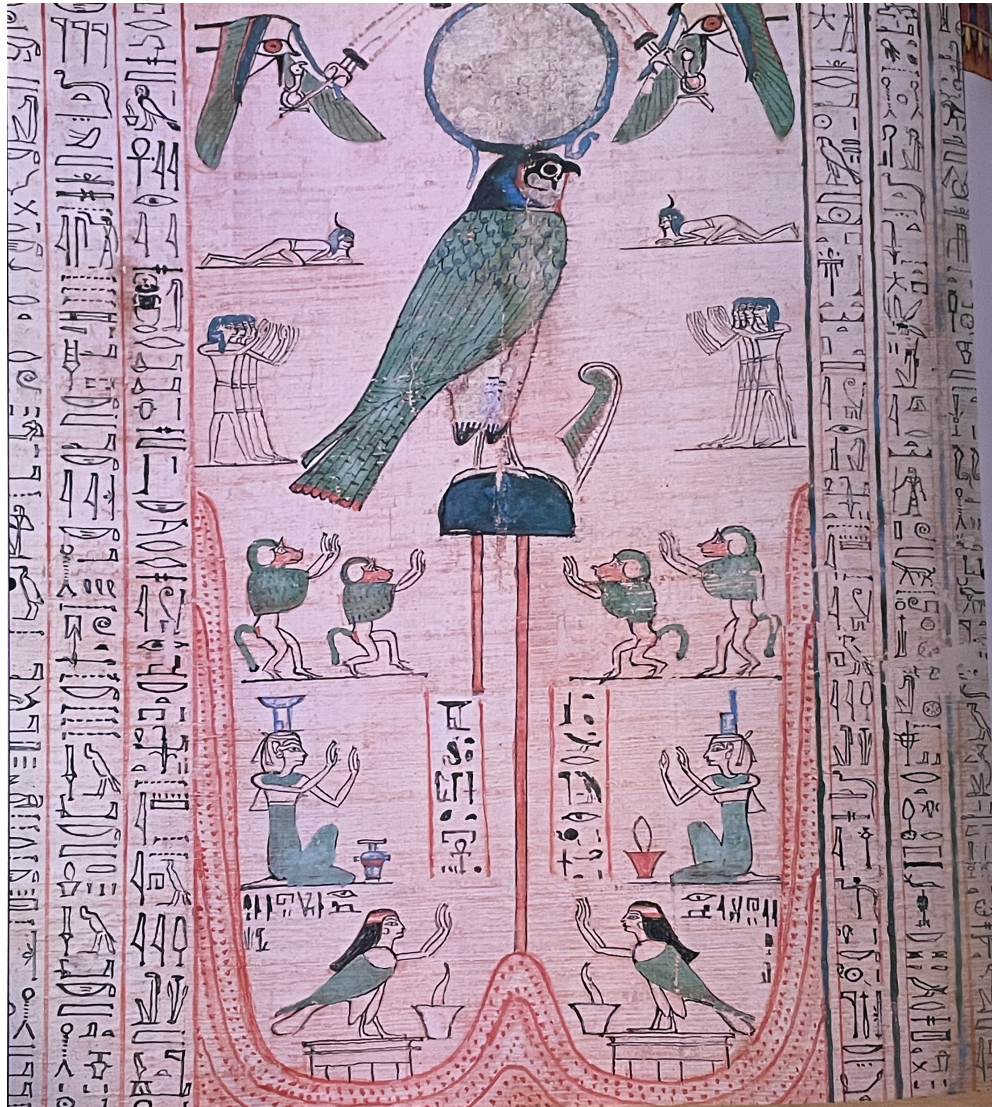


Figure 4. Spell 13 of The Egyptian Book of the Dead - For Going In And Out Of The West

In Spell 13 For Going in and out of the West, Vignette p34 depicting the hieroglyph of the West or Emblem of The West. The hieroglyph for "the West" in the Egyptian Book of the Dead does not always include the falcon with the solar disc. Instead, it often features a tree alongside the feather hieroglyph for Ma-a-t, the goddess of truth, balance, and cosmic order (Budge 1960), more likely a political rule or way of life. the baboons representing Thoth praising the symbol for Atlantis, the West, below that is Isis and below her are two figures interpreted as Atlanteans or Westerners).

If Atlantis (Azores) was considered the West, then the constant reference to journeying west in death could mean returning to that primordial source of knowledge and civilization, rather than just a metaphor for the afterlife. The Egyptians weren't just praying for people to enter the netherworld; they were seeking a reunion with the great powers of an ancient lost world.



Figure 5. Azores Archipelago - Isla de Sao Miguel

Thoth, as one of the earliest Egyptian deities, was already well-established in mythology long before Imentet appeared in religious texts. The Emblem of the West was a hieroglyph representing the western region and the afterlife, but it wasn't necessarily tied to Imentet from the beginning.

Imentet, whose name means "She of the West," became associated with the emblem later, as Egyptian beliefs evolved. She was closely linked to the concept of the afterlife and necropolises west of the Nile, which naturally led to her being depicted with the emblem. However, Thoth, as the god of wisdom and writing, would have recorded symbols like the Emblem of the West well before Imentet was recognized as its divine representative.

Thoth as Advocate, Negotiator, and Protector of Order

Thoth's involvement in Egyptian legal and political affairs extends beyond his role as a scribe; he actively functions as an advocate and arbitrator in significant mythological disputes. In Pyramid Texts (1521), Thoth is depicted as defending Osiris during legal proceedings, ensuring that justice is upheld for the slain god. Similarly, in the case of Horus, Pyramid Texts (316) affirm that "Horus is the heir of his father," reinforcing the legitimacy of his inheritance. However, as Horus was still a child, it was Isis who formally sought justice on his behalf. She presented his case before the tribunal of Geb, in which Re led the counsel and Thoth played a crucial role—not merely as a record-keeper but as an advocate for Horus. Spell 17 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead underscores Thoth's judicial influence, suggesting that his presence ensured that Horus would receive his rightful titles and legacy. His actions indicate a protective stance, ensuring the welfare of Osiris' descendants and safeguarding order.

Thoth's diplomatic abilities are further evident in his negotiation with a "savage goddess" from the South, identified as Tefnut of what is now Ethiopia, source of the Blue Nile River, Lake Tana, that feeds rich nutrients into the Nile. Tasked by Re to persuade her to come to Egypt peacefully, Thoth encounters resistance, as Tefnut initially refuses to leave her homeland and even threatens his life. Despite her reluctance, she ultimately follows Thoth to Egypt, where she undergoes a transformation, becoming Hathor. While traditional interpretations view Thoth's intervention as pacifying an unruly deity, the circumstances raise questions about whether his actions were protective or manipulative intended to maintain Re's dominance rather than merely restoring balance. Sources such as Junker (p.34, 42, 66, 84) suggest that Thoth issued a form of legal threat to Tefnut, compelling her compliance before military force was considered. Given her association with moisture and chaos, her resistance may have been perceived as a disruption to stability, making her integration into Egyptian society a necessity.

Some scholars, including C.J. Bleeker and K. Sethe, propose that Tefnut and Hathor were distinct entities, representing different aspects of Re's divine eye. However, alternative interpretations suggest that Tefnut/Hathor embodied agricultural expertise, which was vital to Egypt's survival. The veneration of fertility deities, especially cow goddesses, was not solely tied to childbirth but encompassed sustenance, livestock management, and ecological balance. Hathor, often depicted as a cow, symbolized the essential role of cattle in Egyptian farming, providing labor, nourishment, and fertilizer for crops. Her transformation into Hathor

may reflect a shift in societal function, wherein her knowledge became a cornerstone of agricultural advancement.

Thoth's intervention in securing Tefnut/Hathor's presence in Egypt appears to be a calculated maneuver rather than a simple act of diplomacy. His role as an intellectual figure preserving knowledge aligns with a broader interpretation of Egyptian mythology, wherein deities embody both spiritual and practical wisdom. If Egypt represented a bastion of stability following widespread upheavals, then ensuring the presence of an agricultural deity would have been a strategic move. Thoth's involvement in these negotiations, coupled with his



Figure 6. Spell 186 of The Egyptian Book of The Dead depicts Hathor as the cow-goddess wearing the Sun Disc with two feathers of Ma-a-t emerges from the mountains of The West.

judicial acumen, suggests that his influence extended far beyond record-keeping. His ability to wield psychological strategies such as reminding Tefnut of potential consequences positions him as a figure who actively shaped Egypt's political and agricultural future.

Thoth emerges not just as a messenger but as a force instrumental in maintaining societal equilibrium. Whether as an advocate for Horus or a negotiator in Tefnut's reluctant integration into Egyptian society, his actions illustrate the intersection of law, diplomacy, and governance within mythological narratives. His ability to navigate these roles demonstrates his significance in both divine and earthly affairs, reinforcing his reputation as a guardian of wisdom and order.

Thoth the Top Bureaucrat

Thoth is known as the dragomon (door-keeper) of the Halls of Justice where Ma-a-t (The Governing Rule/Political Movement) is the Goddess of Justice. Thoth performs separate duties for Re, "His pen protects Re" (Neville p.182) could refer to contractual negotiations between, private entities, cities, political figures and any other governmental situations as spreading and maintaining Ma-a-t seems to have been of great importance as it would in any society.

Another example is after Re conquered the forces of chaos, he initiates Ma-a-t, or the rule of law, which easily prevails. Thoth is then ordered to ensure that the legislation proceeds smoothly among their regions of control. As the god of writing and calculation he would have presented calculations much like a finance minister then administrate Ma-a-t to the municipal leaders within their regions of control (Neville p17).

The House of Life wasn't just where scholarly documentation occurred but also learned discussions were held and the studies of medicine and chemistry (alchemy). As a government entity of high stature, Thoth is always concerned with the pharaoh, who is the highest authority and responsible for maintaining Ma-a-t throughout society. Thoth is always behind the curtain ensuring Ma-a-t is maintained while pharaohs govern and enjoy the spotlight.

Thoth wasn't merely recording laws—he was enforcing and overseeing them. His role likely included:

- Gatekeeping justice—ensuring only those who upheld Ma-a-t could partake in governance.
- Arbitrating disputes—acting as a neutral party to interpret law and ensure fair rulings.
- Regulating bureaucracy—keeping societal structures functioning efficiently.

The fact that he occupied a threshold position aligns well with his broader role in balancing opposing forces: chaos and order, ignorance and wisdom, injustice and fairness. He wasn't just an observer, he was a direct force behind civilization's ability to function.

Thoth as Judge and Arbiter of Divine Justice

As a judicial figure, Thoth is depicted as the prosecutor of Seth in the aftermath of Osiris' murder, ensuring retribution for the slain god. His authority as an avenger is emphasized in the Pyramid Texts (2213), where he is portrayed as an active force in upholding balance. In one particularly striking account, Thoth humiliates Seth by compelling him to carry Osiris on his back, a symbolic act of degradation that underscores his judicial dominance (Sethe, p.106). His unwavering commitment to justice is further exemplified in Pyramid Texts (1336), which states, "Thoth is adjourned to spare no one who has wronged the King," highlighting the lengths to which he would go to preserve the status quo and enforce divine law.



Figure 7. Thoth as a Baboon at the Valley of the Monkey's Temple. Baboons were seen as sacred animals that greeted the rising sun, symbolizing Thoth's role in maintaining order.

Thoth's role as an adjudicator extends to mortal affairs, as seen in Spell 20 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, where the deceased appeal to him for vindication before the tribunals of the gods. This suggests that Thoth held significant judicial sway, acting as the arbiter through whom individuals sought divine favor and justice. The gods themselves—often synonymous with elite or political figures—would approach Thoth in hopes of securing acquittal before celestial trials, reinforcing his position as an influential intermediary in legal matters.

The locales of these divine tribunals, as indicated in Spell 20, provide insight into the geographical distribution of judicial centers in ancient Egypt. Among these sites were:

Heliopolis – North of Cairo in an area known as El Mataerya and Ain Shams

Busiris – Abusir Bana a village in the Gharbia Region of Egypt

Letopolis – Auism in the Nile Delta Region of Lower Egypt

Pe and Dep – Dep is Tanta, Egypt near the Nile Dela, it's important religiously and administratively

Two Banks – Refers to the Nile's two banks. The ancients divided their land into two regions, Upper and Lower Egypt

Road of the Dead – Spiritual path or Road to the West (Spell 126 secret portals to the West in Giza)

Naref – Is near the ancient city of Herakleopolis

Rosetjau – Giza / Memphis

Particularly intriguing is the mention of the "Road of the Dead," often interpreted as a purely spiritual domain. However, an alternative perspective suggests that this path may not have been solely metaphysical but rather a misinterpreted reference to a tangible trade route potentially leading westward through the Mediterranean, over the Pillars of Hercules, as the pre

-flood waters were at least 400 meters shallower, and as Plato put it “the way to the other islands, and from these you might pass to the whole of the opposite continent which surrounded the true ocean.”

Thoth as a Divine Healer: Medicine and Magic in Egyptian Tradition

Thoth's role in Egyptian mythology extends beyond his well-established associations with wisdom and writing; he is also depicted as a healer with profound knowledge of medicinal practices. As the divine physician, Thoth wielded what was perceived as "magic" to combat venomous creatures and neutralize toxins within the human body. His ability to cure ailments stemmed not from supernatural forces alone but from a sophisticated understanding of plant-based remedies, an expertise that the illiterate often interpreted as magical rather than scientific. This duality of medicine and mysticism reflects a broader theme within ancient Egyptian thought, wherein empirical knowledge was frequently mixed with religious belief.

The connection between Thoth and medicine is reinforced in the writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus, a figure associated with Greco-Egyptian wisdom traditions. In *Asclepius* [37] *Animation of Statues*, Hermes Trismegistus declares, "Your grandfather, O Asclepius, was the founder of medicine... Is it not true that my grandfather Hermes, after whom I am named, resides in his eponymous town whence he aids and cures all those who come to him from every land?" This statement suggests a lineage of medical wisdom, tracing its origins to Thoth himself. The reference to an "eponymous town" indicates a space dedicated to healing, most like in Hermoupolis, Magna, further establishing Thoth's enduring influence on early medical practices.

Thoth's role in Egyptian healing traditions parallels broader historical developments in medicine, where early physicians relied on botanical knowledge, empirical observation, and ritualistic elements to diagnose and treat ailments. His reputation as a healer reflects both practical skill and divine authority, positioning him as a figure who bridged the realms of science and spirituality. By attributing the foundation of medicine to Thoth, later traditions emphasized his intellectual legacy, reinforcing his role as a guardian of knowledge and innovation.

His depiction as both a scholar and a healer underscores the integrated approach to wisdom within Egyptian mythology. His mastery of medicinal practices, interpreted by many as divine magic, reveals an advanced understanding of natural remedies and health preservation. The reverence for Thoth as a physician suggests that Egyptian medical traditions, even in their mythical context, were deeply rooted in observation, experimentation, and the transmission of specialized knowledge.

Thoth's Influence on Water Regulation and Record-Keeping

Thoth, as the god of wisdom, writing, and measurement, played a significant role in maintaining cosmic and earthly order within Egyptian mythology. His responsibilities extended beyond intellectual pursuits into the practical domain of regulating natural forces, particularly the annual flooding of the Nile. In Spell 4 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, titled For Passing the Upper Road to Roestjau, Thoth declares, "I am he who fixed the limits of the flood" (Neville, p.182). This statement underscores his divine authority over the cycles of inundation that sustained Egyptian civilization. Given the centrality of the Nile to agriculture and daily life, controlling or predicting its flood patterns would have been a crucial function, possibly linked to early hydrological record-keeping.

Further supporting this notion is Thoth's declaration in Spell 182, For the Permanence of Osiris, where he states, "I have come today from Kheraha." This location, situated near the Raodha nilometre an essential instrument for measuring the Nile's water levels—suggests a connection between Thoth's presence and the act of flood monitoring. The nilometre itself was an advanced architectural feature designed to gauge the river's fluctuations and forecast agricultural conditions. Given Thoth's association with writing and wisdom, it is plausible that Kheraha held scholarly significance, serving as a center for recording water measurements and predicting seasonal cycles. As the deity credited with maintaining order through knowledge, Thoth's proximity to such an important hydraulic structure reinforces the idea that his "divine pen" was instrumental in overseeing hydrological records.

The relationship between Thoth and water regulation reflects broader themes within Egyptian mythology, where deities did not merely symbolize abstract concepts but actively influenced tangible aspects of life. Thoth's connection to the Nile's flood cycle, paired with his role in documenting knowledge, suggests that his mythological attributes extended into

practical applications, possibly guiding scribal practices concerning environmental observation and agricultural planning. By positioning Thoth as a divine administrator of measured wisdom, these texts reinforce his integral role in the preservation of balance and order within ancient Egyptian society.

Thoth's Role in Navigation and Technological Advancement

Thoth's significance in Egyptian mythology extends beyond his conventional association with wisdom and writing; his role in cosmic order suggests an advanced understanding of celestial mechanics and technological applications. According to various inscriptions, Thoth was responsible for determining the Sun's course, ensuring the safe passage of Re's solar barque across the sky. This daily act, attributed to his "great magic in the boat" (Naville, p.182), raises questions about the nature of his influence. Some scholars speculate that this so-called magic could represent an early conceptualization of a sophisticated navigational mechanism, akin to the Antikythera Mechanism, which allowed precise calculations of celestial movements.

The imagery found in Spell 126, depicting the rising Sun elevated by a tyet emerging from a djed pillar, further reinforces the potential technological and electromagnetic significance of these symbols. While much of Egyptian religious iconography is often interpreted metaphorically, some researchers, including those examining the Temple of Dendur, suggest that these elements may allude to an ancient understanding of energy and electrification. Thoth, represented by six baboons in certain depictions, embodies both intellectual mastery and technical knowledge. Given his status as the deity of writing and calculations, it is plausible that his expertise expedited the advancement of technological innovations within Egyptian civilization, potentially contributing to developments in regional electrification.

Thoth's technological acumen is further illustrated in his role in healing Horus' eye following its loss in battle against Seth. Pyramid Texts (1463/1465, Spell 123) recount Thoth's retrieval and restoration of the damaged eye, an act often interpreted as a mystical feat. However, one might consider an alternative perspective: rather than a literal healing of an organic eye, this could represent the repair of an advanced headpiece—perhaps an early form of eyewear, goggles, or even protective headgear. Given the tendency of Egyptian texts to

employ symbolic and fantastical elements, the account of Thoth's intervention may well signify his technical skill rather than purely divine healing.

The Complementary Roles of Seshat and Thoth

Egyptian mythology often emphasizes the interconnected nature of divine figures, assigning them roles that both complement and enhance one another within the cosmic order. Seshat and Thoth, two deities associated with wisdom, writing, and measurement, exemplify this principle through their shared responsibilities in recording and preserving knowledge. While Egyptian texts do not provide a singular narrative dedicated to their relationship, scattered references across temple inscriptions suggest a dynamic partnership rather than a hierarchical association.



Figure 8. The ibis was believed to embody Thoth's role as the divine scribe, the inventor of hieroglyphs, and the keeper of sacred knowledge.

A particularly significant ritual highlighting their connection is the "stretching of the cord," a ceremony performed to ensure the precise alignment of temples and monuments. In this context, Thoth and Seshat function as the divine architects of order, using their expertise

in measurement and record-keeping to maintain the integrity of sacred spaces. This depiction aligns with the broader Egyptian tradition of pairing male and female deities to symbolize balance and cooperation.

Conceptualizing Seshat as Thoth's counterpart rather than his subordinate reinforces their shared function as celestial scribes. Some sources describe Seshat as Thoth's daughter (Jasnow 2021), yet others argue for a more equitable interpretation, positioning her as an intellectual equal working alongside him. Given their respective domains—Thoth as the god of wisdom, magic, and writing, and Seshat as the goddess of knowledge, measurement, and documentation—it is reasonable to regard them as two facets of the same intellectual force.

Their relationship, framed through myths and inscriptions, suggests a collaboration rooted in mutual expertise. Thoth, traditionally recognized as the scribe of the gods, records cosmic events and mystical knowledge, while Seshat is entrusted with earthly documentation, including temple dimensions and royal achievements. Rather than reinforcing a paternal dynamic, these roles indicate a division of responsibilities that underscores their complementarity.

Final Thoughts

Thoth's presence in Egyptian mythology signifies far more than his conventional role as the patron of wisdom and writing. His active engagement in judicial matters, diplomacy, technological advancements, and even the preservation of lost civilizations paints a picture of a deity who functioned as both a stabilizer of order and an agent of transformation. His interventions whether in legal disputes, negotiations with deities, or the safeguarding of knowledge suggest a broader mission to maintain continuity between past and present civilizations.

The connection between Thoth and Atlantis presents an intriguing perspective on his significance, shifting his role from that of a mythological deity to a guardian of intellectual legacy. His portrayal across multiple texts, including the Pyramid Texts and Egyptian Book of the Dead, reinforces his enduring presence as a figure who not only ensured justice and stability but also carried forward the wisdom of previous societies. Whether viewed as a divine entity or an allegory for historical continuity, Thoth remains integral to the conceptual framework of knowledge, justice, and civilization's survival.

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